

Leith walk green action

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Autumn
2010

Your Local Green Team



Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians



Alison Johnstone,
lead Green candidate
for Lothians in 2011



Maggie Chapman,
Green Councillor
for Leith Walk

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Greens back Alison for Scottish Parliament

Local Greens have selected Alison Johnstone as Robin Harper's would-be successor in the Scottish Parliament.

Alison, who is Green councillor for the Meadows and Morningside Ward in Edinburgh, has been selected to be the party's top candidate in Lothian in next year's Scottish Parliament elections. Her selection follows Robin Harper's decision to stand down next year, having served as Green MSP for Lothians since 1999.

If around 7% of voters back Alison then she'll follow in the footsteps of the hugely popular Mr Harper. If, however, 12% of people vote Green with their second vote, then the Greens will have two MSPs in Lothian, just as they did in the 2003-2007 Parliament. This would mean fellow Green councillor, Steve Burgess joining Alison in Holyrood.

Alison said "I am delighted to have been selected. Of course, I realise that the hardest work is only now beginning: to persuade voters that I am worth backing as Green candidate

in just the same way as Robin has done over the last 12 years.

"However, I've worked in Parliament, with Robin, since 1999, so I have a good understanding of the challenge ahead.

"I am sure that people in Lothian will respond to the importance and urgency of the Green message and see through the weak choices that other parties offer. I am confident

Green MSP candidate, Alison Johnstone backs local traders in her council ward in Edinburgh



Picture: David Rintoul

that record numbers of people will vote Green."

Robin Harper gave Alison his full backing: "Scotland's Parliament needs Green MSPs, to challenge and inspire: campaigning

effectively on securing clean green energy; on efficient transport; on tackling pollution and waste; and delivering thousands of quality green jobs. I can think of no better successors than Alison and Steve."

The Scottish Parliament elections are on 5 May 2011. If you can help in any way with Alison's campaign please contact "Green Action".

Contact your local Greens

Leith Walk Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area from Easter Road to Bonnington

You can contact us at

LeithWalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk

Or write to us at
Edinburgh Green Party,
20 Graham Street,
Edinburgh EH6 5QR

You can also contact your Green MSP, Robin Harper on robin.harper.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 6421 and Councillor Maggie Chapman on Maggie.Chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3291

This newsletter is also available in large print

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Latest news from Councillor Maggie Chapman

Defend our public services

Edinburgh Greens have led the campaign to halt the Council's proposals to slash care provision for some of the most vulnerable people in the city. Green Councillor Maggie Chapman's motion against the tendering out of Adult Social Care at the Finance and Resources committee resulted in a defeat for the Council.

The Council's report into the process identified 27 mistakes, and the process has been put on hold.

Maggie said "The Council was determined to cut costs by slashing services to the most vulnerable people in the city. But their failure to take the quality of care into account led to a collapse of the process. Greens will always stand up for the most vulnerable, and we'll be fighting to ensure that social care is delivered in the way that puts people first.

Green Councillors have been fighting broader cuts in public services. The financial situation must not be used as an excuse to cut vital services. Edinburgh Council must protect the frontline services that help people and improve quality of life.

Greens are in favour of improving services, but the focus of any change must be on improvement not cost-cutting. The current administration is obsessed with short-term cuts that store up long-term problems. Those problems will cost even more to sort out. We must focus on prevention as this is the only socially just solution to Edinburgh's problems.

Budgets for people!

For the first time ever, residents in Leith Walk will get the chance to vote on how money for community projects should be spent. Local groups will make a 3 minute pitch for your vote, and the projects with the most votes will get the funding. This is the first step towards making the Council's budget process really democratic - giving local people the chance to decide how to spend public money. Please come along to Leith Academy on **27th November** and have your say.

For more information, call Jackie or Martin on 0131 554 4750 or e-mail jackie.mearns@edinburgh.gov.uk or Martin.Black@ea.edin.sch.uk.

Leith Walk Greens need your help!

Can you help in our campaigns? Is there an issue that affects where you live?

Contact us at LeithWalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at Edinburgh Green Party, 20 Graham Street, Edinburgh EH6 5QR.

- I can help deliver **Green Action** in my street
- I'd like more information about the **Scottish Green Party**
- I'd like to make a donation to **Edinburgh Green Party**

(cheques payable to Edinburgh Green Party)

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

Information on this form will be kept private and used only for Green Party contact